

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1 1. A digital set-top box for minimizing subscriber-perceived digital video  
2 channel tuning delay, comprising:  
3 a first decoder;  
4 a second decoder; and  
5 a look-ahead tuning logic in communication with said first decoder and said  
6 second decoder, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic instructs said second  
7 decoder to decode a television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic.

1 2. The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic  
2 comprises a channel prediction logic, wherein said channel prediction logic  
3 compiles a list of television channels, and wherein said look-ahead tuning logic  
4 selects said predicted television channel from said list of television channels.

1 3. The digital set-top box of claim 2, wherein said list of television channels is  
2 created based in part on a current channel decoded by said first decoder.

1 4. The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a memory in  
2 communication with said look-ahead tuning logic, where said memory stores a  
3 historical log of channels recently decoded by said first decoder.

1 5. The digital set-top box of claim 4, wherein said list of television channels is  
2 created based in part upon a said historical log of channels.

1 6. The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a weighting database,  
2 wherein said weighting database orders said television channels to generate said  
3 list of television channels.

1 7. The digital set-top box of claim 1, further comprising a decoder manager,  
2 wherein said decoder manager determines if said second decoder is available to  
3 decode said television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic.

1 8. The digital set-top box of claim 1, further comprising a prediction  
2 evaluator, wherein said prediction evaluator determines if said television channel  
3 predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic matches a subsequent subscriber  
4 requested television channel.

1 9. The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic  
2 comprises a feedback loop.

1 10. A method executed in digital set-top box having at least two decoders,  
2 comprising:  
3 receiving a request from a subscriber to view a first television channel;  
4 decoding said first television channel using a first decoder;  
5 predicting a next television channel to be requested by said subscriber; and  
6 decoding said predicted next television channel using a second decoder.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising determining if said predicted  
2 next television channel matches a subsequent subscriber requested television  
3 channel.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television  
2 channel is based in part upon the subscriber's most frequently watched television  
3 channels.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television  
2 channel is based in part upon the identity of said first television channel.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television  
2 channel comprises compiling a list of candidate television channels, wherein said  
3 next television channel is chosen from said list of candidate television channels.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising organizing said list of  
2 candidate television channels based upon weights generated by evaluating the  
3 accuracy of past predictions of television channels to be selected by said  
4 subscriber.

1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of determining the  
2 determining the resources available for tuning to said predicted next television  
3 channel.

1 17. The method of claim 10, further comprising tracking said prediction to  
2 determine the accuracy of said prediction.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising using said accuracy of said  
2 prediction to predict subsequent television channels to be requested by said  
3 subscriber.

1 19. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing the identity  
2 of said predicted television channel in memory.

1 20. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing a historical  
2 log of television channels requested by said subscriber.

1 21. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of instantaneously  
2 presenting said predicted next television channel for viewing by a subscriber.